

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 RSR-01 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 TRSE-00

NIC-01 NEA-10 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-12 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15

RSC-01 /118 W

----- 025676

R 221512 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

TO AMEMBASSY ROME

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4581

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 1420

L. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IT, US

SUBJECT: PANORAMA ARTICLE

REF: ROME 5747

1. WE ARE CONCERNED, FROM FABIANI STATEMENTS TO MERRILL LYNCH, THAT FABIANI MAY BE SUFFICIENTLY CONVINCED OF ACCURACY OF ALLEGATIONS IN ARTICLE THAT HE MAY RETURN TO MATTER IN PRINT IN FUTURE. CHANCE OF THIS MIGHT BE INCREASED IF FEED GRAINS COUNCIL AS WELL AS MERRILL LYNCH OPENLY DENIED ALLEGATIONS, WHILE EMBASSY STAYED SILENT.

2. WE WOULD NOT URGE AT THIS POINT THAT EMBASSY ROME MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT. HOWEVER, IF FABIANI WAS, AS REPORTED, CORDIAL IN TALK WITH MERRILL LYNCH, WE WONDER WHETHER IT MIGHT NOT BE ADVISABLE FOR EMBASSY TO DISCUSS MATTER DIRECTLY WITH HIM, OR WITH PANORAMA MANAGING EDITOR MELAGA. AS REPORTED IN PRAGUE 875 OF PARIL 27, WHEN MELEGA PHONED FROM ROME IN 1972 BRIDGES FLATWOM DENIED KNOWING DELLE CHIAIE OF MSI OR ANY OTHER PERSONS IN SUPPOSED 1969 MEETINGS. BEYOND THIS, POINTS COULD BE MADE THAT BRIDGES HAS NEVER BEEN ACQUAINTED WITH ANY MEMBER OF MSI OR ANY OTHER FAR- RIGHT ORGANIZATION IN ITALY; HAS NEVER WORKED FOR CIA; DURING ROME TOUR WORKED MAINLY ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAD ONLY LIMITED DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONTACTS, ALL WITH MEMBERS OF ESTABLISHED

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NON- EXTREMIST PARTIES (INCLUDING PCI); AND WOULD BE HAPPY TO
MEET WITH FABIANI N MELEGA IF NECESSARY TO CONVINCE THEM
THAT STORY THEY PUBLISHED WAS MALICIOUS LIE.
SHERER

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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